

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY & WATER COMMISSION,
UNITED STATES & MEXICO - SALARIES & EXPENSES**

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Program Activities Summary

Summary Statement

(dollars in thousands)

Activities	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Estimate	FY 2002 Request	Increase or Decrease (-)
Administration	\$4,322	\$4,930	\$5,321	\$391
Engineering	1,613	2,196	2,131	(65)
Operations and Maintenance	13,535	-- /a	-- /a	--
Appropriation Total	\$19,470	\$7,126	\$7,452	\$326

/a Pursuant to the FY 2001 appropriation, the Operations and Maintenance activity was transferred to the IBWC—Construction Account.

Explanation Of 2002 Request

The FY 2002 request provides \$7,452,000 for Administration and Engineering activities for the International Boundary and Water Commission, a net increase of \$326,000. Increased needs in Administration include wage and price increases (\$152,000); telecommunications services procured from GSA (\$28,000); increased costs of financial management services procured through the Department of the Interior's National Business Center (\$100,000); and software and services to address recent audit findings concerning inventory management and internal controls (\$111,000). Increased needs in Engineering include wage and price increases (\$75,000) which are offset by the transfer of Construction Administration to the IBWC-Construction appropriation (–\$140,000). The IBWC-Salaries and Expenses appropriation continues to reflect the transfer of the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activity in FY 2001 to the IBWC-Construction appropriation.

Purpose Of Program

The mission of the International Boundary & Water Commission (IBWC) is to:

- r apply the rights and obligations which the governments of the United States and Mexico assumed under numerous boundary and water treaties and related agreements;
- r improve the water quality of the boundary rivers (the Rio Grande and Colorado) and resolve border sanitation problems;
- r distribute boundary rivers' water to both countries at agreed-to proportions;
- r operate the international flood control projects along the boundary rivers;
- r operate the international reservoirs for the conservation of Rio Grande water and for hydroelectric generation;

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- r** establish and maintain the boundary in the international rivers (the Rio Grande, Colorado, New, and Tijuana Rivers);
- r** maintain and demarcate the land boundary; and
- r** operate and maintain international wastewater treatment facilities.

Program Description

The IBWC Salaries and Expenses appropriation ensures that the rights and obligations of treaties and agreements between the United States and Mexico are met through administration and engineering activities using funds appropriated to IBWC.

In addition, the Commission will:

- r** implement joint water quality programs for the observation of the biological, mineral, chemical, and toxic quality of international river waters;
- r** ensure compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant, located in Nogales, Arizona, and the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, located in San Ysidro, California;
- r** design water conveyance structures for the new higher capacity American Canal, including box culverts, wasteways, and transition structures; and design of operation and maintenance facilities for flood control, hydrologic, groundwater, sanitation (water quality), and boundary demarcation and preservation projects;
- r** conduct various planning (pre-design) and environmental studies to address a variety of border issues, including surveys, environmental investigations, water quality, and other possible small-scale pre-design studies required prior to design and construction, and ultimately, border sanitation and boundary preservation studies; and
- r** investigate and report on the most feasible measures for solving border sanitation problems along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Benefits

The work of the IBWC facilitates the solution of international boundary and water problems, which benefits populations on both sides of the boundary and improves relations between the two countries. Particular emphasis is placed on the resolution of critical environmental issues.